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STUDY CIRCLE

FOUNDED
JANUARY 27th, 1954

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BULLETIN No. 152

MARCH 1992

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OBJECTS

1. TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of the islands that comprise the British West Indies and in addition BERMUDA, BRITISH GUIANA (GUYANA) and BRITISH HONDURAS (BELIZE).
2. TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features.
3. TO loan books from the Circle library (**home members only**). Borrowers bear postage both ways. **List supplied upon application to Hon. Librarian accompanied by an s.a.e. (9" x 6½") - 2nd Class postage for 150gm rate required.**
4. TO publicise 'wants' and furnish opinions on stamp(s) and/or cover(s) for a nominal fee.
5. TO encourage, assist or sponsor the authorship and publication of definitive handbooks, monographs or other works of reference appropriate to the aim in para 1 above.

MEMBERSHIP&SUBSCRIPTION

MEMBERSHIP - Is WORLD WIDE in scope and open to all whether they be new or advanced collectors.

SUBSCRIPTIONS - The ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION is £6 for members residing in the UK or Europe and £8 for members who reside elsewhere.

Subscriptions (dues) are payable on 1st January each year and, subject to what is mentioned below, in sterling (by personal cheque or Standing Order drawn on a U.K. Bank, a Banker's Draft, International Money Order, Postal Order or local currency notes - no coins will be accepted - e.g. dollars, marks, francs etc.).

Members residing in North America (Canada, USA, and the Caribbean) who do not pay their Subscription (dues) in sterling should pay by sending to the North American Representative (see above for address) a cheque for USA \$14.50 made payable to "MARK W. SWETLAND". Other overseas members who pay their subscription by cheque drawn in a foreign currency or on a foreign bank MUST add the equivalent of £3 sterling partially to cover exchange and bank charges. The overseas rates quoted include an element to cover postage of the Bulletin by Air Mail.

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PROGRAMME

1992

Sat. 2 May 2.15p.m AGM and Auction.
Venue: The York Room, The Bonnington Hotel,
London.

HON. TREASURER

Please note that Steve Papworth has at last been able to find a willing volunteer to take over the post of Treasurer for the Study Circle. We should like to welcome Chris May to this job (subject to approval at the AGM) and wish him all the best for the coming years.

Steve Papworth will continue to look after and sell the Study Circle publications. We wish them both well.

1991 ACCOUNTS

THE BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

Income and Expenditure Statements for the year ended 31 December 1991

1990		INCOME		1991
£				£
1977	Subscriptions			2027.85
182	Publications - net surplus			230.62
806	Auction and Miscellaneous donations			896.74
40	Opinion Fees			12.50
-	Convention - net surplus			285.30
<u>536</u>	Interest received, less tax reserve			<u>545.93</u>
<u>£ 3541</u>		TOTAL INCOME		<u>£3998.94</u>
		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
1127	Bulletins : costs less advertising	1129.02		
573	: distribution costs	<u>513.21</u>		1642.23
64	Library : acquisitions	112.20		
-	: insurance	40.00		
55	: miscellaneous	<u>107.70</u>		259.90
110	Meetings : room hire less collections			105.00
271	Stamp World '90 Wine and Cheese Party - net cost			-
22	BPF - Affiliation Fee and Donation			78.00
	Administration : stationery, postages, photocopying,			
379	telephone etc. less recoveries			345.44
54	Miscellaneous expenses			9.23
295	Publicity and Public Relations			-
<u>21</u>	Publications - advance costs			<u>-</u>
<u>£2971</u>		TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>£2439.80</u>
<u>570</u>		SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE for the year		<u>1559.14</u>
<u>£3541</u>				<u>£3998.94</u>

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 DECEMBER 1991

	<u>ACCUMULATED FUND</u>		
7497	Balance at 1.1.91	8067.01	
<u>570</u>	<u>Add</u> surplus for the year	<u>1559.14</u>	
8067			9626.15
<u>(2908)</u>	<u>Less</u> Stocks of Publications at cost		<u>(3511.91)</u>
<u>£ 5159</u>			<u>£6114.24</u>
	REPRESENTED BY:		
7629	Cash at banks, building society and in hand		9267.77
<u>760</u>	Sundry Debtors		<u>161.50</u>
8389			9429.27
(40)	<u>Less</u> Sundry Creditors	429.88	
(95)	Taxation Reserve	110.00	
<u>(3095)</u>	Subscriptions received in advance	<u>2775.15</u>	<u>3315.03</u>
<u>£5159</u>			<u>£6114.24</u>

AUDITORS REPORT

I hereby certify that the Income and Expenditure Statements for the year ended 31 December 1991 are in accordance with the books, vouchers and explanations given to me; and that the Balance Sheet shows the financial state of the British West Indies Study Circle at that date, save that the Stocks of Publications, whilst valued at cost as consistent with previous

accounts, may not have a market value of the sum stated on that date, and in the Balance sheet have been treated as having a nil value.

For a period the Study Circle adopted a subscription policy that by paying for five years in advance the sixth year was given free; and it is therefore under an obligation to provide a service to those members, the cost of which liability cannot be quantified accurately but at current subscription rates is £896. There are four honorary life members.

In all other respects the finances of the Study Circle appear to be sound.

Signed: J.A.C. Farmer, FCA, FRPSL. Dated: 16th February 1992.

LEAMINGTON CONVENTION

On Friday the 11th October, 1991, members of the Circle, the BCPSG and other guests began to assemble at The Regent Hotel, Royal Leamington Spa - which can almost claim to be our usual venue - for the bi-annual Convention.

Friday evening commenced with the Circle's welcome sherry party, where members, wives and guests "got together" after which the evening was passed in the traditional manner with the various "territorial" groups setting up shop around the lounge to renew old friendships, and even talk about "stamps".

Many of those present dined in the hotel, after which the discussions, chats and "stamping" continued and we were further delighted to welcome Michael Hamilton and his bride, Eva, who were spending their honeymoon at the Convention. Needless to say this was - I believe - one of the first times that stamp and other priorities were conducted in the manner we hope to see; Michael obviously believes in starting off as he means to continue! The best wishes of us all go out to them both.

The Convention was formally opened by our President, Victor Toeg, on the Saturday morning, after which the Bourse of some eight dealers and the Circle's table operated by Simon Goldblatt and Derek Nathan were open for trading. To assist in the various stages of the proceedings Tony Farmer acted as MC during the Convention, whilst those two stalwarts, Tony Shepherd and Mike Rego organised the various displays exhibited by the members during the day.

During the course of the morning many additional collectors added to the gathering, and in all some 52 members, wives and guests attended. We were particularly please to welcome our overseas members, Clarry and Bertha Holt, Ed and Lee Addiss and Rob Wynstra from the USA as well as F. Borromeo and Charles Freeland from Switzerland.

During the course of the day the following short displays were shown:- Mike Wilson - Ship Mail, Mike Spaven - Leewards, John Smith - Bermuda, Frank Deakin - Barbados, Simon Goldblatt - British Guiana, Derek Sutcliffe - Jamaica, Charles Freeland - British Honduras, Steve Jarvis - Jamaica Arms Issue, Mr. Rudge - Antigua, Ken Watson - Nevis and Jamaica Earthquake, F. Borromeo - Trinidad, Doug Nottingham - Leewards and Tony Shepherd - Barbados.

All 11.55 the Bourse was closed and the first Convention display of Antigua was jointly shown by Stella Pearce and Alex Thomson (see Convention Displays for details).

With a pause for liquid refreshment, lunch was served and the gathering was welcomed by Mr. Toeg on behalf of the Circle. After reporting on the progress of the Circle, Victor referred to the untimely death of Basil Benwell on the 12th August, 1991. As members will know a full obituary of this sad event was printed in the December 1991 issue of the Bulletin.

Eva Hamilton had by this time fully entered into the spirit of "philately" and with the assistance of Charles Freeland had been selling raffle tickets to all and sundry. At lunch the results were announced, and we were all delighted to hear that the raffle had raised a record sum.

The afternoon session opened with John Marriott's display of Trinidad (see Convention Displays for details), after which further short displays were shown and the Bourse continued trading.

Saturday evening was again spent in eating, drinking and stamping until the small hours, and slowly on Sunday the gathering departed. Our thanks go to Victor, Mike Wilson, the two Tonys, Mike, Simon, Charles, Derek, Eva, our unnamed stewards who supervised and assisted and last but not least the exhibitors, all of whom had contributed to another successful "Leamington".

Derek Sutcliffe

CONVENTION DISPLAYS

The Convention held at Royal Leamington Spa was not only a success for all who attended but also for the excellent displays put on in the morning by Stella Pearce and Alex Thomson and in the afternoon by John Marriott.

The first display was a joint display of Antigua given by Stella Pearce and Alex Thomson and commenced with a series of ship letters dated 1693, 1726 and 1731 followed by examples, landed in England, showing the town cancels of Portsmouth, Dover, Weymouth and Liverpool. An example of the

London Ship-Lre (no town mark) of 1778 was also shown along with an entire showing the use of a warship to carry mail (Deal Ship Letter). This section of the display finished with a Philadelphia Ship Letter of 1802.

The introduction of the packet boat service in 1755 was covered by a series of entires showing the 1N6 rate, the manuscript "In all" and the straight line Antigua handstamps from 1781 (PD2) to 1798 (PD13). Examples were also shown of the straight line Antigua handstamp with date and year, and the large fleuron with and without the year covering both the rate to England and the inter-island rate. This section of the display continued with examples of the small fleuron including one showing both the Antigua and St. Kitts fleurons on the same entire and a double arc handstamp on a soldiers letter of 1845.

The various Falmouth handstamps of 1798, 1812 (green) and 1842 and 1845 (red and black) completed this section on packet boat entires. The introduction of mail to France was discussed on two entires of 1838 and 1843 (Colonies and Art.12).

The use of the A02 and A12 obliterator on G.B. stamps and also on cover was shown.

The postal history section of the display finished with two examples of the crowned circle handstamp showing both the 6d rate (1862) and the 1/- rate (1868) of which 1d went to the local post office.

Then followed examples of the first stamp issue of 1862, represented by a die proof, plate proofs, issued stamps (mint, used and on cover), together with a Perkins Bacon sample sheet and various posthumous prints of the head made from the transfer roller, and impressions from the defaced plate.

The Queen Victoria line engraved stamp issues were also shown from both later Perkins Bacon and De La Rue printings, including mint and used, covers, multiples and a bisect.

The surface printed Queen Victoria issues were represented by mint, including large blocks and complete panes, used, stamps on cover and specimens.

Then followed a couple of covers showing the use of Leeward Islands stamps alone in Antigua between 1890 and 1903.

The Seal of the Colony issue was represented by an essay, die proofs, colour trials, specimens and the issued stamps. Later issues to 1951 were shown with specimens where issued.

Other aspects of Antigua philately were shown in short displays of slogan handstamps covering the period from 1928 to 1976 and also the introduction of first flight airmail covers from 1929 to 1931.

A vote of thanks for the display was given by Victor Toeg who commented on the quality of the items displayed. The members present showed their approval in the usual manner.

The second display was given by John Marriott who showed some of the outstanding items from his Trinidad collection. He started by outlining the basis for the display as being part of a specialised collection consisting of philatelic interest dating from the capture of Trinidad from the Spanish in 1797 to 1913 when the issues gave way to those inscribed Trinidad and Tobago.

This is a large and fascinating field and since material is not always in plentiful supply there is all the fun and excitement of search and discovery. There are rarities to be sure, some of which fortunately were acquired many years ago, but there is such a breadth of material available that almost everything in the philatelic field is represented. There are early letters and postal markings; the Lady McLeod stamp produced for local use in the island; Perkins Bacon imperforate, pin-perforated, clean cut and rough perforation; a locally lithographed provisional issue; De La Rue printings from the engraved Perkins Bacon plates; bisects made necessary by changes in postal rates and a very limited number of surcharged stamps; re-entries on the engraved plates; the surface printed De La Rue issues; postage dues and stamps for official use, together with a full range of postal stationery. Essays, proof material and documentation exist in sufficient quantity to tell the story of the various issues. There is also a very good range of numeral obliterations, town and village date stamps and also maritime markings, without these being overwhelming as regard coverage and content. The only obvious gap is that there were never any Great Britain issues used in Trinidad, but on the other hand there were Trinidad stamps used abroad in Ciudad Bolivar, Venezuela. The reason for the absence of the former is that Trinidad postal affairs were well organised from the start and it was as early as 1848 that the Government of Trinidad were first invoiced for a supply of stamps, though their issue was delayed until 1851.

It is fair to say in addition that owing to the good organisation and firm control exercised over the years by the Trinidad Post Office, there exists virtually nothing of a philatelic or dubious nature.

The display began with early letters including 1806 Trinidad date stamp, the earliest known; later fleuron date stamps. 1847 Lady McLeod stamp

and an envelope from Lady McLeod; 1848 Essays and progressive die proofs for the 1851 Britannia design.

Then followed a copy of the Gazette announcement of the Inland Post; a selection of characteristic shades of the 1851-57 issues including (1d) rose-red unused pair and used block.

The next items shown included the 1852-60 issues produced locally in Trinidad to meet shortages of the Perkins Bacon stamps. Mr. Marriott stated that covers, multiples and the (1d) red used are particularly rare. All were printed from the same stone, the deterioration in the impressions being caused by imperfect cleaning between printings.

The later Perkins issues included the 1859 4d, 6d, 1/- die proofs and issued stamps; 1859 pin perforated 12½ unused; examples of 4d and 1/- (including a pair) on cover; 1859 pin perforated 13½-14 original shades unused, 6d imperforate between pair and (1d) compound pin perforation used on cover with a strip of four lithographs; 1860 clean cut perforation and 1861 rough perforation.

The next part of the display showed examples of the De La Rue printing from the Perkins Bacon plates and the 1859 5/- and included 1862 De La Rue record sheet; (1d), 6d compound perforation; 1/- perforated 13 unused block of four, cover with four values used together; 1863-5 imperforate examples and the four values in multiples; 6d - the sixteen printings; selection of covers including (1d) on 1874 soldiers letter; various values in combination; Registered and Too Late frankings followed by 1869 5/- essay and die proof (only known use on cover); 1876 6d perforated 14 x 12½; 1d in black manuscript on 6d pair and bisect on piece.

The display concluded with the 1883 De La Rue artist's sketch; die proof and the issued stamps surcharged 9d; examples used on a Telegram envelope; 1896 De La Rue artist's sketches, die proofs and 5/-, 10/-, £1 in unused blocks of four; 1898 Columbus issue essays and die proofs; 1899 unissued 3d design, essays for 3d surcharges, pair with "SPECIMEN" overprint and single without, the latter being stated to be very rare; 1901 1d black on red value omitted, one of only three known and ending with the 1906-09 issues with artist's designs and proofs.

Ed Addiss proposed the vote of thanks, stating that the terms 'rare' and 'only known copy' had been mentioned so often that it was a privilege to have seen such a marvelous display. The members present agreed with this wholeheartedly and showed their appreciation in no uncertain way.



Upper photograph:- Stella Pearce, John Marriott and Alex Thomson
Lower photograph:- John Marriott displaying his material



Top:- Victor Toeg and friends enjoying lunch
Centre and bottom:- Members enjoying the displays

BRITISH GUIANA

Diamond Jubilee Issue - Forged Overprint Variety



Fig.1



Fig.2

Some years ago I purchased an example of SG 224b (upon which I duly obtained a Certificate) which showed the two overprints wide apart (fig.1). More recently I purchased at a country auction a further example of the variety with the overprints much closer together (fig.2), with the benefit of a 1953 Certificate (not RPSL). I was suspicious of it because the inks are different, one overprint being almost grey-black and the other intense black. After enquiry and some correspondence I submitted it for a Royal Philatelic Society, London, Certificate and it was pronounced to be a forgery. At that time I thought it was probably a 'one-off' but have recently seen a further example in London and feel that Members should know of my experience.

I have noticed that Scott value this (genuine) variety at 1/5th of the value which they attribute to the inverted overprint variety (SG 224d) whereas Gibbons rank it higher than the inverted, more in line with the estimated quantities of each variety suggested in Townsend and Howe, and wonder whether or not this means that there are a lot more of the forged examples circulating in the USA.

Perhaps one of our Members from there may have some information?

I raised the matter with the Editor of Scott who provided no information other than that his catalogue had regard to market forces.

Michael B. Nicholson

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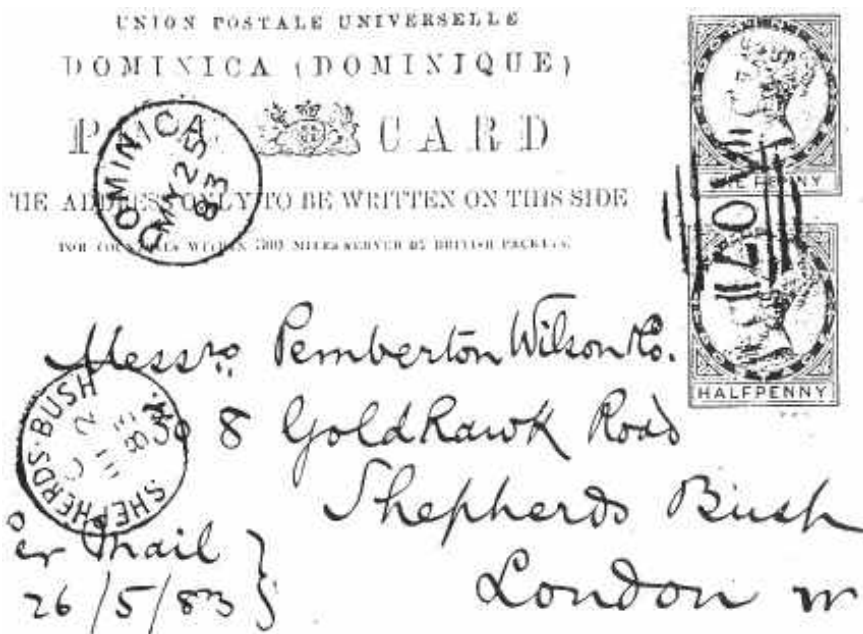
WILLIAD S. ALLMAN

Advert

PETER SINGER

DOMINICA

With regard to the article by Simon Goldblatt in Bulletin 151 (p.76), I can report a significant discovery, a second complete used example of the Dominica provisional postcard of 1882. Unlike Stephen Sugarman's example, which is a late use in 1889, this example appears to be "in date". Addressed to stamp dealers Pemberton Wilson in London, it is franked by an additional ½d to make up the overseas postcard rate.



The message reads "Three of these sent by this mail". So there could be two more out there, if they have survived!

Simon also refers to the rarity of the Dominica 1888 Revenue 1d. carmine in mint condition (R6 in Gibbons, R5 in the Encyclopaedia). I would be very grateful if owners of examples would report their holdings to me, if possible with a photocopy. For the record I have one unused single, no gum but not cleaned (ex Vivian-Browne).

Charles Freeland

DOMINICA

The Dominica cover illustrated below has the two line cachet in violet "AIR MAIL/VIA ANTIGUA"



As can be seen, it passes under the Censor sealing strip ("EXAMINED BY 14556") and I would like to know whether this cachet would have been applied at the source i.e. Dominica or added at Antigua. If the former, is it (or something similar) to be found on covers from any of the other islands.

Chris May

JAMAICA

I have recently obtained a copy of the Jamaica 1d Queen Victoria carmine (SG18a - CA watermark) with a cancellation which reads "...ALTREAS..". I am unable to trace a post office with this combination of letters and am wondering if it is a fiscal or ship cancellation. It could be an oval cancellation: not enough of it is there for one to be sure. No date appears. Can anyone help please.

Malcolm Mattick

A JAMAICA SHIP LETTER

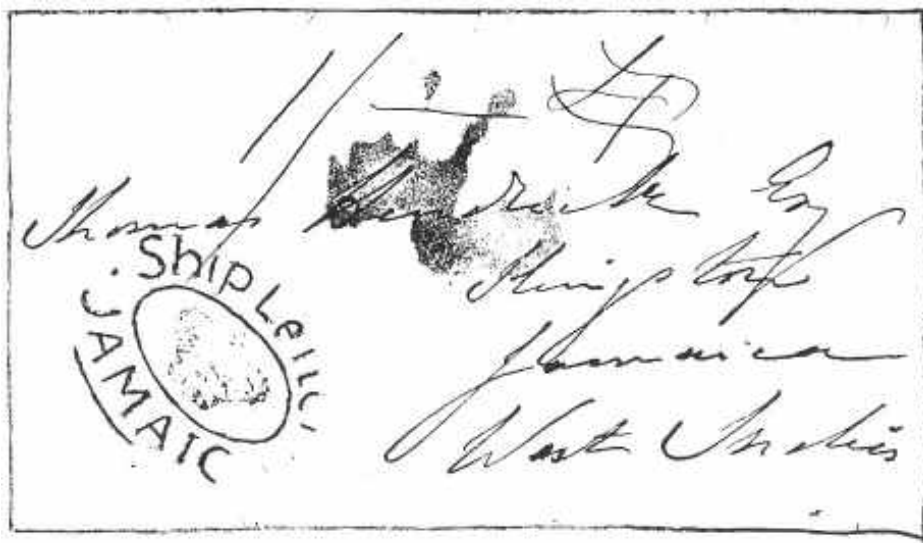


Fig.1

Figure 1 shows the front of a small cover. Quite a nice example of the reasonably common ship letter mark, SL1; an awful blot or stain at the midline; a squiggle above it, which is hard to decipher, perhaps a deleted rating mark; and a very clear 1/- as the firm or final rating. What's unusual about that?

A moments thought: this is addressed to Kingston, Jamaica. Weren't covers showing SL1 usually applied on outgoing mail (rather contrary to the purpose that ship letter marks were originally designed to fulfil)? And does not one usually find SL1 struck on the reverse? It is time to turn over.

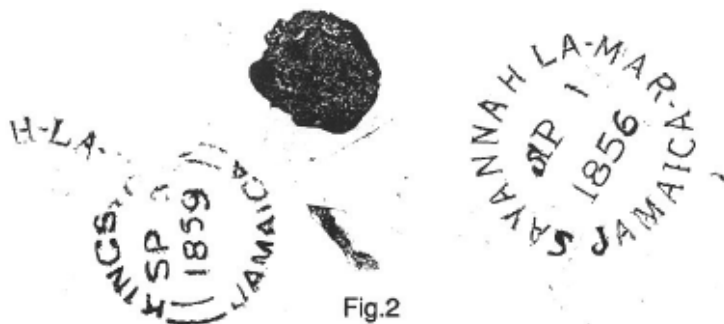


Fig.2

Figure 2 shows the reverse of our cover with three postal marks:

- A) Savannah-La-Mar date stamp for Au 30, the lower half missing completely.
- B) Full Savannah-La-Mar date stamp, reading initially "AP 11856", with the 'A' altered in pen to 'S' to indicate September.
- C) Kingston double-arc date stamp showing SP 3 1859.

So the cover is internal to Jamaica. Given the introduction of British stamps before 1859, and the close correspondence of month and day between the three marks, my first conclusion was that the letter was sent and received in **1856**.

My next step was carefully to examine mark SL1. The period of use given by Foster was during the first two decades of the century; and a series of different ship letter marks is known from Kingston after that time. Was the particular mark a forgery? Could it have been reproduced on the cover by clever use of a photo-copying machine?

Remembering that Foster's illustrations are artistic, rather than photographic, I have had recourse to auction catalogue illustrations of the real thing, being without a live example of my own. I conclude:

- 1) appearance, shape and specific measurements all confirm that the mark corresponds with the earlier examples.
- 2) the mark has the warmth, and tone variation of real ink, not the dryness of photo-copy.
- 3) it shows signs of wear and tear consistent with some age.
- 4) the ink is not dissimilar from that used for date stamp B.

If my observations and conclusions are right, SL1 was transferred from Kingston to Savannah-La-Mar, for use there as a ship letter mark on the same basis as before, namely, for use on outgoing mail!

Addendum

The above comments have been shown to Bob Swarbrick before this publication. He adds a very different slant:

"Whilst your solution is plausible may I suggest an alternative.

One basic fact is over-riding - on arrival at the final destination the Captain of a ship was required to introduce any letters carried into the mail system. In this case Jamaica, where any one of numerous ports could be the final destination of a merchant ship, ship letters exist from almost every port on

the island; whereas packet letters were only discharged into the care of the postmaster on arrival at Kingston, the incumbent or his agent being required to board the vessel on arrival there and physically remove the mail bag.

Unless an incoming ship letter was stamped on arrival with a ship letter handstamp, or received a manuscript notation at the time, the clerk would have no idea of its origin and would be unable to collect the correct rate - he could only charge internal postage.

Thus handstamps were issued to each port in Jamaica handling cargo from abroad and **there were probably dozens of different Instruments corresponding to SL1.**

They were made in the UK to exacting standards, and no effort has yet(!) been made to separate SL1 marks into sub-types - a hard job anyway, for strikes are seldom really clear.

It is likely that your letter was landed from overseas at Savannah-La-Mar where it was struck with Type SL1. In addition the inland rate (up to 60 miles) of 4d was charged - being the postage to Kingston. The extra handling accounts for a day's delay, the letter leaving on the 1st. On arrival at Kingston the correct rate of 1/-, being the ship letter rate, was charged, and 4d deleted. There was a twice daily post between Savannah-La-Mar and Kingston, so it is unlikely it would have gone by sea, especially at the greatly enhanced postal charge.

Incidentally, Foster's assertion that examples of SL1 used in its true capacity are extremely rare, is based on an insufficient survey and is quite unreliable; it is safest to disregard the first five paragraphs on p.102 of this work."

Further comment.

Bob's suggestion is fascinating, and should send a number of us diving back for a better look at our SL1 marks!

I can readily accept as a possibility that this particular mark was struck on first receipt of the letter - it would simply require that this instrument was fuelled by the ink pad before application, whereas the AU 30 date stamp was not.

I am less certain that the putative deleted rate mark represents a '4', as the one nearly-vertical stroke that lends most colour to this view seems to me to have been added later in a different ink (perhaps by the writer of "1/-"?).

Mileage and postal rates have never been my forte - my initial supposition was that Kingston was more than 60, less than 100, miles from Savannah-La-Mar. The two date stamps on the cover are two days apart, which would involve slow handling on Bob's analysis. I wonder, also, why the clerk at Savannah-La-Mar would not have known the correct ship letter rate, but there is the same query, whichever the right explanation of this letter is.

Naturally I should prefer to think of this particular SL1 as being used in its correct role, as Bob propounds, and am quite content for others to debate whether it is not a case of instrument transfer from Kingston, but the use of a similar device which was issued and from the outset belonged to Savannah-La-Mar.

At the end of the day, though, the burning question is - is this the only example of SL1 dating from the 1850's? Surely there must be others?

In the meantime, members might like to know that this interesting Ship Letter is one of the items coming up in the next Study Circle Auction.

Simon Goldblatt

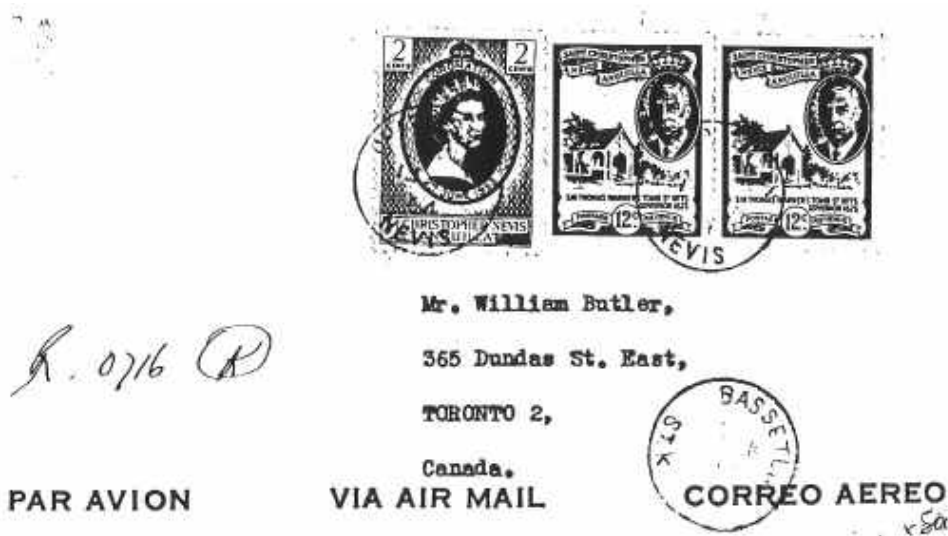
ST. CHRISTOPHER

For the record, Michael Medicott's supposition that the same value tablet may have been used for the Revenue 5/- of 1885 as for the Tobago 5/- postage and revenue series of 1879 must be incorrect.

The St. Christopher was 20 set (5 x 4) whereas the Tobago was 60 set (6 x 10). Moreover my pane of the St. Christopher has no sign of a dropped 'S' in shillings whereas, as Michael has noted, the dropped 'S' is not uncommon on the Tobago 5/-.

Charles Freeland

NEVIS



The cover dated 13.1.1954 from Charlestown, Nevis has a manuscript Registration mark in red which appears to have been accepted as valid, judging by the backstamp c.d.s. "TORONTO ONT-REG.BR.A".

Can anyone advise whether this M/S Registration was normal procedure at Charlestown or was there a particular reason at this date.

Chris May

COMMENTS AND QUERIES FROM AUSTRALIA

John Challis asks about **Turks** SG1 Cancel. I hold something similar on **St. Lucia** first issue 1d and 4d. (Has anyone got the 6d green please ?). I suspect a Perkins Bacon presentation leakage from their surplus printings. May I inturn report that I have the 1d and 1/- Turks with an acute pen stroke (has anyone got a 6d black please?) Reverting to the "grille of dots", **St. Vincent** collectors know of a village cancel in black of this type, circa 1880, which is so far unknown on entire. Such marks could be derived from the wafer seals utilised to secure folding letters without sealing wax.

Tobago. The only important point which Charles Freeland's reply on dropped 'S' in five shilling leaves in the air is did De La Rue make nine or ten strip electros of six. I suspect ten, leaving the originals unused for printing.

Please can we all look more carefully at Tobago and Dominica and decide if (and when) there was a second setting of SIX PENCE and perhaps other values. Because of **St. Christopher** funny 'O' in one I fancy that values were resets of 5 specially electrotype of the six panes. Also, why did Tobago raise the ½oz. letter rate to Dominica from 2½d to 4d on March 7, 1882 under U.P.U. rules? It lies between French Islands.

Collectors know that De La Rue originally bought the Crown CC paper used for West Indian and other Colonial adhesives and charged accordingly. Partly for improved control, and partly to secure economies of scale, the Crown Agents for the Colonies supplied paper and the price charged fell. Is there a change in quality of paper to something thinner. Did De La Rue use up some of their paper in mixed deliveries. I suspect the **Antigua** 6d delivery of June 16, 1873 was a mixture. It would have been delightful if Robson Lowe Encyclopaedia Volume VI had produced a study of the Star and CC printings of this neglected stamp. I confess I am unable to visualise how any 6d could be on accidentally unwatermarked paper, for 120 size plate could not be placed to avoid Stars, border lines or postages. In the absence of evidence I suggest a query against the last paragraph on varieties (p.16) and on the Beware on p.14. The Number Printed gloss on p.14 rather increases confusion. If the six surplus sheets of first printing were utilised for the perforation experiments, these could not have been included in the second consignment. "About 800 stamps on thin paper" from a 120 plate suggests that the intelligence must be downgraded. Why were two printers employed? Did they position half sheets differently, upright and sideways?

Antigua. Is the 6d plate positioned 118 a retouch or a fresh entry? Most of the plate as printed has the customary row slope down from West to East and particularly in the lower part, a drift within columns to West. However 118 is well above 117, indicating "re-entry". What does Mr. Vincent Toeg now think? Is position 120 a retouch? Such are uncommon on Perkins Bacon Colonial plates compared with fresh entries.

British Virgin Islands. R.L. Encyclopaedia Volume VI p.161 illustrates a "forged A93". Do any such exist genuine, please?

Peter Jaffé

TOBAGO

The debate in the last two bulletins about village manuscript marks reminds me that I have long owned a Tobago manuscript cover (ex Urwick).



The cover which bears a central cds for 14 Aug 1888, is correctly franked at the single letter rate to London at the time (4d), ie. no penny added to denote local postage. The adhesive is tied by lettering resembling initials. There is also an oval handstamp of John McCall & Co., Merchants, Tobago.

It looks as if the stamp escaped cancellation in Tobago and was obliterated by a zealous postmaster elsewhere. Any other theories?

Charles Freeland

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Ship mail to and from the West Indies. Particularly required Dummer Packet Letters, Falmouth Packets and any items where the ship is named on the address panel. Please contact Eric Quinn, 23 Spen Lane, York YO1 2BS.

BOOK REVIEW

“THE LEEWARD ISLANDS - ADHESIVE FEES STAMPS” by E.V. Toeg, FRPSL.

For price and ordering details see Publications for Sale.

If I may commence with one small criticism. Much of the content and most of the illustrations concern the various handstamps employed and recorded. Perhaps this could have been reflected in the title.

To the purists, Fees stamps will be non-philatelic labels. Some of those purists quite proudly collect and exhibit high value Postage and Revenue stamps on covers because they have a Post Office CDS, when the correct postal rate was two or three pence.

It would be interesting to learn why this small colony duplicated expenditure with Postage and Revenue and Fees stamps, even to the extent that when a £1 Postage and Revenue stamp was introduced it was immediately followed by a new printing of the £1 Fees stamp.

Their introduction in 1881 was understandable when each Presidency had its own stamps and highest denomination was 1/-. The Colonial administration specified for the 1890 General Issue Postage and Revenue stamps that ‘shillings’ values be in a different colour and in words so that they could be readily identified for the different purposes they would primarily be used. That the Registrars Office operated under a separate accounting system seems unlikely when one of the illustrations (page 35) shows a Postage and Revenue stamp used for part payment of the Fee.

I suspect the recording of documents and fees payable did not cease with the death of King George V - only the cost of printing separate Fees stamps when Postage and Revenue stamps in denominations from 2/- to £1 were readily available and soon to become old stock.

Perhaps I am inviting trouble in questioning a lawyer on legal matters, nevertheless I do not think Victor’s suppositions on Pages 55 and 56 are correct. We British introduced and rigidly maintained a cadastral system throughout the Empire, but not in our own country, and Stamp Duty was payable on all transfers and conveyances.

I was pleased to learn what my 1890 1d stamp perfined ‘MCA’ means and I can resolve one question (p.56). The £1 printing of November 1929 was in

60 forme from Keyplate 1, with the remark in the CA Plate Issue Register, "Specimens taken/1st time King George".

This book of 72 pages A4 size soft covered, is clearly written and well presented with numerous illustrations. It traces the background of the legislative system of the Colony and the introduction of Fees Stamps. The dates and numbers printed for every requisition are given together with other notes from the DLR and CA records. The majority of the content is a record of the different Registrars Office handstamps of the various Presidencies. The quality of the examples illustrated is generally excellent.

The author is to be congratulated on widening knowledge and research within that fine division for philatelists between 'Postage' and 'Revenue'. He must be unique when admitting he owns none of the material about which he writes - a formidable undertaking when the first book on a new subject.

Michael Oliver

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